[27th March 1929

Inspection Notes.

I have visited Tiruvannamalai and gone into the matter of the transfer of these four reserves (originally placed in Class III by Mr. Whitehead) to Class I. The present position is as follows :—

Fuel coupes are being worked in all these four reserves 'Kavuthimalai, Kannamandai, Radhapuram and Tippakadu but the Forest Department have leased the coupes to a co-operative society. With the exception of Tippakadu the lease works at Rs. 4-8-0 per acre. Radhapuram is however fetching Rs. 7-8-0 per acre. The amount of supply by Tippakadu, Kannamandai and Kavuthimalai to the Tiruvannamalai town is at present negligible. Radhapuram is giving the main supply. The coupes are being worked on a 30 years' rotation and both the ranger and the deputy tahsildar are of opinion that the panchayatdars would be perfectly well able to work these coupes on the same rotation. . . I understand that panchayats could easily be formed, willing to undertake this responsibility. If the problem is how to supply Tiruvannamalai with fuel there seems to be little doubt that the supply would not be interfered with in the least by handing over these reserves to the panchayat management. I understand from the local officers that the opposition came from the co-operative society who have been making a good thing out of these leases and who did not think that the terms offered by the panchayatdars would be so favourable and who therefore moved the local committee to make their recommendation. This year, however, from the 1st of April the Forest Department have decided to sell these coupes by auction and it is probable that the co-operative society will not get such a favourable rate and will not be so keen to keep out the panchayatdars. I think it is a mistaken policy to transfer these to Class I.

H. A. B. VERNON,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

APPENDIX IX.

[Vide answer to question No. 2035 asked by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 27th March 1929, page 992 supra.]

South Vellore.

Class I.—The Committee accepts Mr. Whitehead's classification, but makes two suggestions :—

(1) That *Periyamalai* be brought under the forest village system.

(2) That in *Mulakad* the reserve forest boundary might be shifted to the west at the part where the public right of way passes through the reserve, should difficulties arise about cattle straying off the path into the reserve.

Class II.—*Parvadamalai* should go into Class III.

Annamalai is now under the forest village system and should be put into Class I.

Padipalem is in South Arcot.

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Class III—Kavuthimalai, Kannamadai, Radhapuram and Tippakadu.—These should go into class I. They are fuel reserves supplying Tiruvannamalai town and cannot be handed over to panchayats without endangering the fuel supply. They are now actually worked by panchayats under the District Forest Officer's control and this system may continue. They must, however, remain in the hands of the Forest Department and be put in class I. A petition was received from ryots of Radhapuram asking for the retention of that reserve under the District Forest Officer.

With this exception, Mr. Whitehead's proposals are approved.

G.O. Mis. No. 750, Development, dated 19th April 1928.

In partial modification of paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 244, Development, dated 18th February 1927, the Government direct that the reserves noted below be transferred to class III :—

South Vellore.	AREA IN ACRES.
Kavuthimalai	6,983
Kannamadai	5,791
Radhapuram	6,428
Tippakadu	4,584

APPENDIX X.

[*Vide* Item IV—Papers placed on the Table of the House, page 1040.]

With reference to the promise given by the hon. the Chief Minister at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 1st March 1929, the following report is laid on the table :—

Legislative Council question No. 1587 answered on 1st March 1929 regarding active assistance alleged to have been given by the Chingleput District Board to the Self-Respect Conference.

With the permission of the president, district board, the District Health Officer had to arrange with the assistance of adequate health and engineering staff for sanitary conveniences on the Conference grounds, as the site fell within the Chingleput district and outside the municipal limits.

The district board lorries had to be utilized for transporting the exhibits, posters, cinema machinery, furniture, etc., in connexion with the health exhibition and cinema lectures arranged for by the District Health Officer.

HILTON BROWN,
Secretary to Government.